

MASONRY IN MANITOBA

Published by Authority of Grand Lodge

VOL. 6

FEBRUARY 1950

NO. 2

THE ROAD OF LIFE

It is a pleasant experience to stand on the threshold of a new year and contemplate the possibilities of the future. It is like the beginning of a long journey, up hill and down, through pleasant valleys and around dangerous curves, while every mile we travel brings to view a new and different landscape. And the fact that we cannot see beyond the limits of the present moment creates within us hope and optimism so that we can dwell peacefully with ourselves in an atmosphere of anticipation.

Our past experiences of every nature, blended with the conditions of the present hour, give to each of us a preview of tomorrow. Our hopes and our aspirations are based on what we believe to be possible and upon our willingness to work for the things we want. It is man's desire to scale new heights, to explore new fields, to establish new records, that sets him apart from those less enterprising. But the good things of life are never attained by wishful thinking. Only action counts. The power of will is the dominant force—and when it is supplemented by ability to make decisions that bear fruit in the face of reality, man becomes a king upon a throne.

To "know thyself" and to make preparation for the tasks of tomorrow is most desirable. For practically every desire, there is a way in which it can be attained. It is up to us to find the way. Every man will, as a rule, find his proper place in the world; and in the long run, we will get out of life about what we desire.

By pulling against the current, by walking against the headwind, we grow strong. In the sheltered valleys where the winds never strike, the trees are soft and of little value. Without apparent effort, they greedily absorb the elements from the rich loam, grow quickly, and return to dust. But the oak, strong of sinew, that stands as a sentinel upon yonder hill, with branches twisted and gnarled by the force of passing storms, is a symbol of the courage and the tenacity we should all possess as we journey down the road of life.

(Lloyd Rime in *The Iowa Bulletin*)

QUALITIES OF A MASTER

We extend to the Masters of our Lodges sincere congratulations on their preferment and hope our contributions from month to month will assist them in their official duties. By the time this appears in print our newly elected Masters will have had their

first experience of presiding over the Lodge. Much is expected from the Master of a Lodge. He should remember at all times that he was elected to office by his brethren because they considered he had the necessary qualities of leadership.

A skilled Master will put his interest of the Lodge above his personal interest and will submerge his personal ambition. He should endeavour to preside with dignity, maintain order, preserve harmony and make decisions strictly in accordance with our Constitution.

There is no excuse whatever for delaying the opening of a meeting. Be ready to sound the gavel at the hour announced in the notice. If an officer is late put a substitute in his place. An early start brings an early closing and provides time for fellowship and refreshment. Incidentally, this is one of the real factors leading to better lodge attendance.

Now is the time to begin, if you have not already begun, to set in motion the forces to accomplish those things you promised to do if ever you were installed as a Worshipful Master.

Work your program for every meeting carefully. Do not hesitate to discuss your plans with any Grand Lodge officer. Remember that the chairman of any standing Committee of Grand Lodge is ready to assist you in obtaining particulars connected with Masonic matters.

We want you to realize and understand that you are a member of Grand Lodge in your own right and the other members of our Masonic family want to help you make a success of your work in 1950.

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

The Secretary of Glenwood Lodge, No. 24 has forwarded an excerpt from a letter written by a brother of that Lodge and because of the fact that it discloses the truth that the Masonic Lodge follows settlement in new areas we give it space on our pages this month. Here is the story as it reached our desk. "Although I have visited several lodges in the Thunder Bay District, I have been moving around so much, laying out new towns and other survey work, I have not got round to joining a local lodge. Also it is quite evident that the Masons and the result of Masonic work are a profound and powerful force in this area. Three years ago I laid out the modern town of Terrace Bay in the unbroken forest. Last week in Terrace Bay, the Lodge there received the D.D.G.M. on his first regular visit. Gathered there, I recognized the men representing in their daily capacities, management, labor, and the professions, who had in a short time, under great difficulties, worked together to achieve a town and industry remarkable for its harmony, beauty and smooth efficiency. I believe it was no idle chance that these men, the backbone of the project, were Masons."

Here once more we have first hand information of our own time which parallels the first days of Winnipeg and scores of other towns throughout the West. The leaders in community undertakings were men who had found inspiration in the Masonic Lodge. They exemplified Freemasonry in their outside activities. Organized local government in the town. Provided the energy and wherewithal to erect churches and schools and built their very selves into the fabric of their community.

Does history repeat? I think the story told by our brother of Glenwood Lodge answers the question as he tells us it was our Masonic brethren who formed the backbone of the community enterprise at Terrace Bay. Yes, there is still work to do if you but seek the opportunity.

AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS

This is the title of an interesting brochure of 28 pages and is a detailed report of the Special Mission sent by the Masonic Service Association of the United States to investigate Masonic conditions in Germany, 1949. The Chairman of the Committee was M.W. Brother Ray V. Denslow, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. A copy of the printed report may be borrowed from the Library.

Briefly, the reader will learn some authentic facts regarding the Anti-Masonic movement prior to the advent of Hitler. This activity seems to have been participated in by some religious groups.

Then we are told about Masonic property being seized by the government and usually confiscated. Masons were disfranchised and many sent to concentration camps.

We learn about Military Lodges being established under authority of some of the Grand Lodges of the United States. Membership in these Lodges however being confined to Americans.

It seems there is a definite move to revive Freemasonry but for the time being this is not recognized officially by the Masonic family of Grand Lodges. When we realize there has been no official Freemasonry in that country for fifteen years this stand can be understood.

A new body has been created and bears the name Grand Lodge of Germany. The lodges in the Berlin area have not been included thus far in the newly formed organization. From the fact that no less than four so called Grand Lodges exist in Berlin, all separate and apart, we do not require to seek very far for the reason why this area has not expressed any desire to affiliate with the new Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba is not in fraternal relation with this body but as a matter of current information this brief review will give a general picture of the Masonic situation in Germany.

The booklet may be had on loan by any brother interested in the matter.

AN AMENDMENT

In our last issue we referred to the late Harry Bletcher as our senior Past Grand Master. Since we went to press information has reached us through the columns of the daily press that M.W. Brother E. A. Braithwaite, passed away in Edmonton, Alta., on 7th December, at the age of 87.

Most Worshipful Brother Braithwaite was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in 1903. At that time our Grand Lodge held jurisdiction over the territory that subsequently became the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Dr. Braithwaite served as chief Provincial Coroner (Alberta) for 42 years. He was appointed in 1896 and continued in office until his retirement in 1948.

He was named medical officer of the Northwest Mounted Police in 1884 and retired from the force in 1931. His name, however, was kept on the nominal roll until his death.

This pioneer physician and Mason was a prominent citizen in the land of his adoption and when Edmonton was under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge he was one of the leaders in our Royal Art.

THE OLD TIMER

It is appropriate that attention be given at this time of the year when the rosters of our Lodges are being checked and attention directed to the brethren who have been Masons for fifty years or more.

To all such brethren Grand Lodge awards a "Fifty Year Jewel." The qualifications entitling our elder brothers to this distinction are very simple and read "Master Masons who have had continuous membership for fifty years, twenty-five years of which have been in the Grand Lodge of Manitoba."

We suggest to the Lodge secretaries and the Masters that a check be made and if they find one of their members entitled to a jewel then make an application without delay to the Grand Secretary.

Perhaps one of our veterans has been overlooked. He himself is in possession of the necessary facts and it will be quite in order to make his claim known to the Secretary of his Lodge. If any reader finds these remarks apply to himself then he should remind the officer that his jewel has not been presented. We hope no deserving brother has been overlooked.

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

The members of Crystal Lodge No. 71 G.R.M. celebrated their Fiftieth Anniversary at Crystal City on October 11th, 1949. The program included the reading of the history of the Lodge by M.W.

Brother E. T. Greenway, Past Grand Master. One of the members made certain he would be present at the celebration and travelled by plane from Hamiota.

* * *

A brother in New York State writes, "Masonry in Manitoba has proven most helpful when other worth while material was not available and the truism of the writings strike home as evidenced by the many favorable comments. Too bad we cannot broadcast the spirit of Brotherly Love to the world at large and by so doing instill it into the hearts of those responsible for the cold war."

* * *

At the annual election of officers in Neepawa Lodge No. 24, R.W. Brother W. G. Pollock was re-elected Treasurer for the 34th consecutive term. The Secretary comments "we do not think that this record has any equal anywhere as far as constituent lodges are concerned."

We refer the secretary to an item in this issue entitled "Recognition of Service," and taken from our latest Annual Proceedings.

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The Worshipful Master of Reston Lodge No. 106 asks us to reprint the item "Their Eyes Are Upon You"—which appeared in the October 1949 issue. He adds, "I have asked a few of our brethren about it and have found very few who had read it."

Does this mean the brethren accept our monthly paper as "just another bit of printed matter." We hope such is not the case. As a matter of fact we don't believe it is because of the number who from time to time make reference to some particular item.

We presume every Lodge secretary encloses a copy each month with the notice of his Lodge meeting. He is supposed to get a sufficient quantity for that purpose and it is his job to mail them—not hand them out like circulars. It would suggest that our Worshipful Masters ought to check this matter and ascertain if the papers are being sent to his members in the manner intended.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

"This Grand Lodge has always realized that the strength of Freemasonry is maintained, not primarily by the Grand Lodge officers, no matter how well they carry out their duties, but by the devotion of those who serve their respective Lodges faithfully, and who strive to live out their Freemasonry. It has been thought appropriate, therefore, to give some recognition, particularly to Lodge Secretaries, who have given long and useful service to their Lodges."

“It is fitting, then, Brother Dewar, that you should be the first to receive this recognition. You have the distinction of having served as Secretary for a longer continuous period than any other Secretary in this Grand Jurisdiction. You have now completed thirty-seven years as Secretary of Acacia Lodge No. 111—during all that time you have not missed one meeting of your Lodge.

“You have performed the duties of your office efficiently, but your work has been more than recording minutes and keeping accounts. You have had the opportunity of coming into intimate contact with every member of your Lodge. Year after year you have supported the Worshipful Master, and you had a strengthening influence on your brethren. You have won the affection and respect, not only of every member of Acacia Lodge, but of members of many other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction.

“Because of your long and faithful service, because of your genuine interest in your Lodge and Freemasonry, because of the fine influence you have exerted throughout the past years, I have the honor of presenting to you this jewel on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, as a symbol of our gratitude and esteem. With it our congratulations, and our hope that you may long have the joy of serving the Lodge you love so well.”

This citation was delivered at the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Walter C. McDonald. The multitude of Bill Dewar's friends will gladly echo the sentiments so beautifully expressed in the official citation. Long may Brother Dewar be given health and strength to carry on to further record achievements.